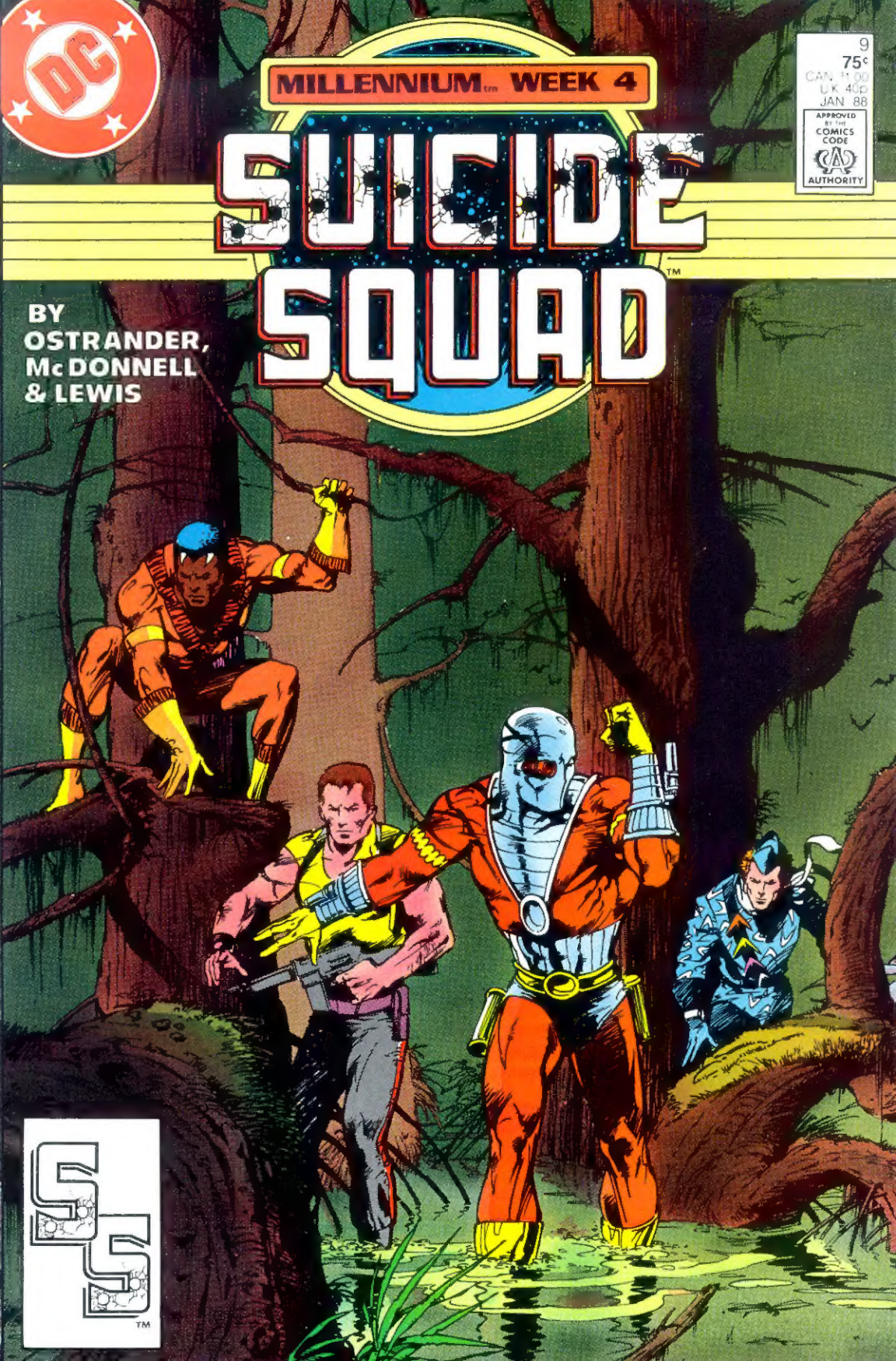
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BY OSTRANDER, McDONNELL & LEWIS
SS™

THE FINAL PRICE

READ THIS WEEK'S ISSUE OF MILLENNIUM BEFORE READING THIS STORY

MANHUNTER'S TEMPLE:

THAT'S THE TARGET SLIPKNOT, CAPTAIN BOOMERANG, DEADSHOT, RICK FLAG, KARIN GRACE, AND THE PRIVATEER--ALL UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE BRONZE TIGER--HAVE BEEN SENT TO DESTROY HERE IN THE SWAMPS NEAR BELLE REVE.*

THEIR OBJECTIVE: TO GET THE EXPERIMENTAL MOTORIZED BOMB BABY HUEY AS CLOSE TO ITS CENTER AS THEY CAN BEFORE THE BOMB GOES OFF, AND TO THAT END THEY ARE ALL EXPENDABLE.

*AS SEEN IN MILLENNIUM #4, ON SALE THIS WEEK! -- BOB

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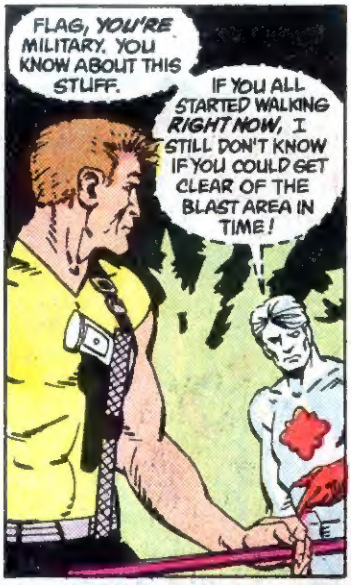
Another fine Hasen/Grundy scan

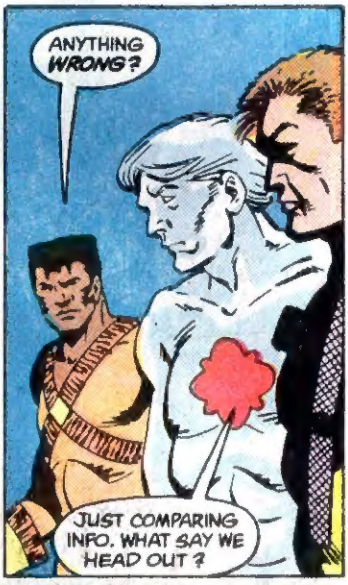
INCREDIBLE.
THIS THING'S BEEN IN OUR BACKYARD... HOW LONG? WE NEVER EVEN SUSPECTED.

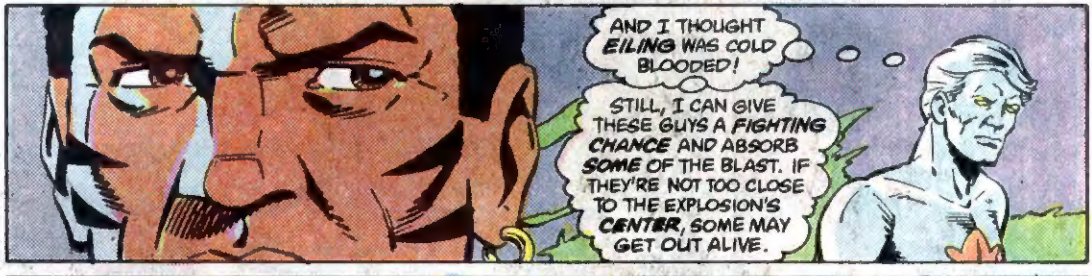
IT'S PURE MANHUNTER, FLAG.
YOU CAN ALMOST FEEL ITS POWER AND MAJESTY.
I'LL JUST BET YOU CAN, SHAW. YOU WERE ONE OF THEM ONCE... AND MAYBE STILL ARE.
I WISH I COULD FIGURE WHY KARIN IS SO TAKEN WITH YOU...OR STILL SO BITTER WITH ME.
YO, BOOMERANG! ABOUT THESE EXPLOSIVE BRACELETS HERE! TOLD US THEY'D BLOW OUR ARMS OFF IF WE RABBIT. ON THE UP?
I DON'T BELIEVE IT MESELF, SLIPKNOT, OL' MYTE. GUYS LIKE FLAG OR THE TIGER ARE JUST TOO DAMN DECENT.
HANGS 'EM UP EVERYTIME. ME? THINGS GET SHIRTY AND I'M ORF FOR THE HIGH COUNTRY.
ME, TOO. THANKS, PAL.

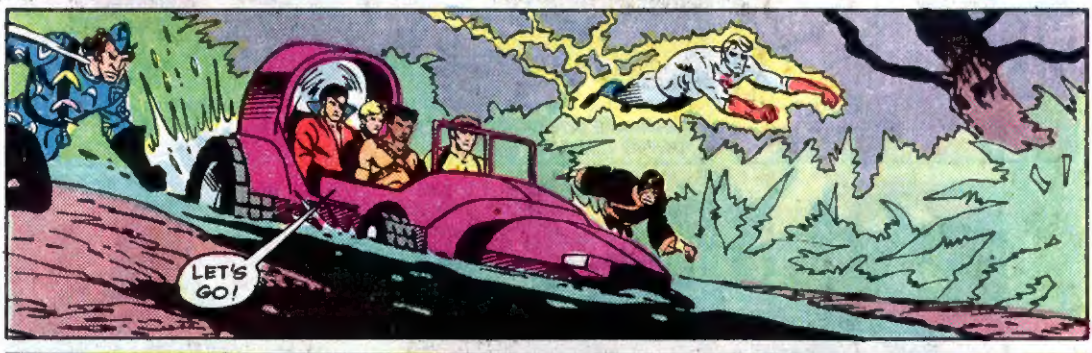
GOT ANY SUGGESTIONS, COLONEL? THIS IS MY FIRST SOLO FIELD COMMAND AND I DON'T MIND SAYING I'M A LITTLE NERVOUS.
ACCORDING TO MRS. WALLER, IT'S YOUR SHOW, BEN.
YOU KNOW YOUR JOB. YOU KNOW HOW TO DO IT. EVERYTHING ELSE'S JUST NERVES. DON'T LET IT HANG YOU UP.

INCOMING!
HEADS UP! IT MAY BE THE MANHUNTERS!
I THOUGHT I'D FIND YOU PEOPLE ABOUT HERE.
CAPTAIN ATOM? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL RIVALRY, PURE AND SIMPLE.
MY BOSS, GENERAL EILING, WANTS ME TO SMASH THE MANHUNTER BASE BEFORE TASK FORCE X DOES.
FIGURES. IF WW 3 EVER COMES, THE SERVICES WILL BE SCRAPPING OVER WHO GETS TO SET OFF THE FIRST NUKE.
YEAH. I THOUGHT IT WAS A CROCK, TOO, SO I DECIDED TO FIND YOU GUYS, LINK UP, AND MAKE SURE THE JOB'S DONE. WHAT'S THE PLAN?
GOT THE BABY HUEY HERE FILLED WITH XYZEDIUM. WANT TO GET IT AS CLOSE TO THE CENTER OF THAT PLACE AS WE CAN BY SUNSET--7:37. THAT'S WHEN THE TIMER'S GOING TO BLOW.
XYZEDIUM?! DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT IS?
KNOW IT'S AN EXPERIMENTAL EXPLOSIVE. VERY DESTRUCTIVE. VERY UNSTABLE.









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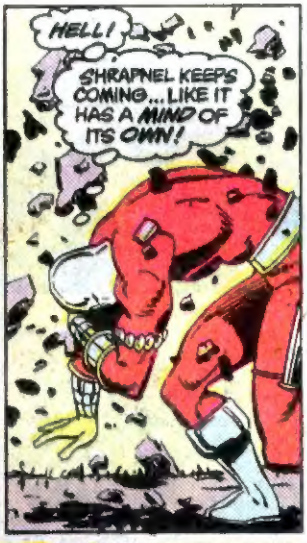
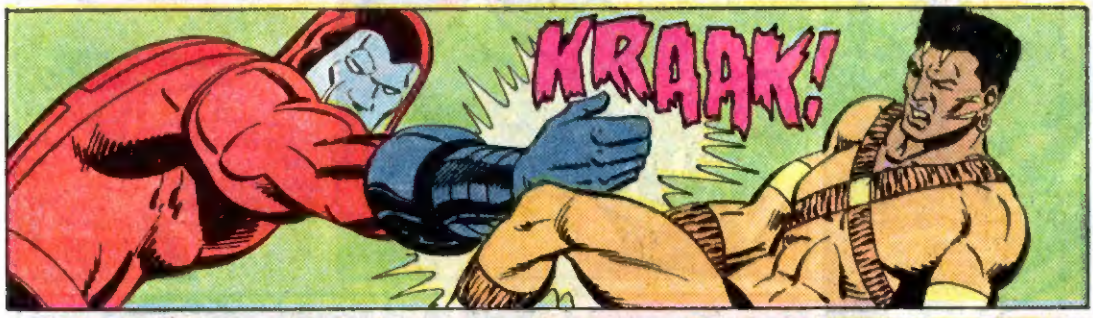
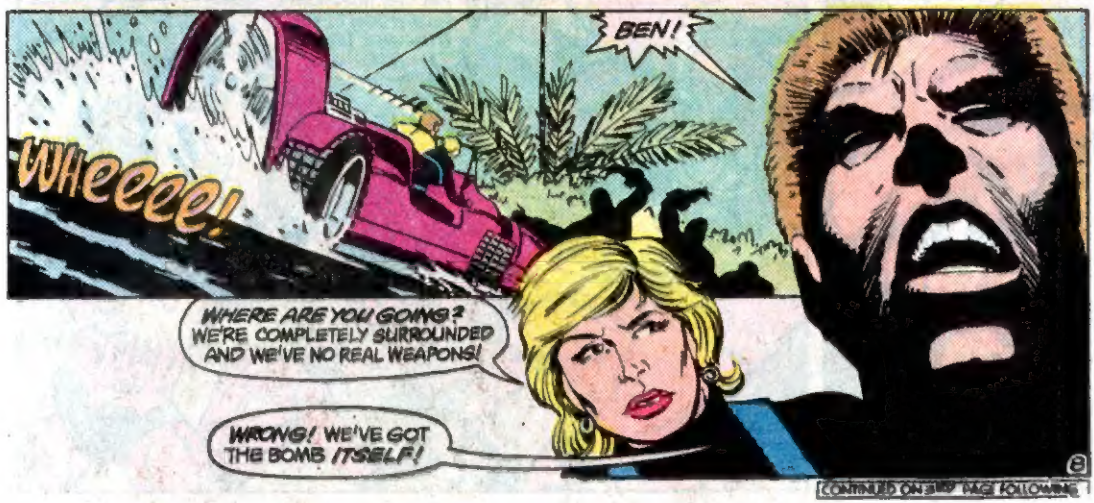
OH, BEAUTY! FIRE-BLOODY-STORM! WE HAD SUCH A GREAT TIME PLAYING KNOCKABOUT WITH HIM IN NEW YORK!*
LOOKS LIKE HE'S THROWN HIS LOT IN WITH THE MANHUNTERS THIS TIME. WHERE'S THE JUSTICE-BLEEDIN'-LEAGUE WHEN YA REALLY NEED 'EM?
*AS SEEN IN FIRESTORM #64 AND THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL. YOU DID SEE THEM, DIDN'T YOU? --BOB
I'M ALL THE JUSTICE LEAGUE YOU NEED, BOOMERANG.
MOVE ON! I'LL DEAL WITH FLAME-HEAD!*
*IN THE CURRENT ISSUE OF CAPTAIN ATOM! YES, WE WANT ALL YOUR MONEY! --BOB
BACK AT BELLE REVE...
DAMN EILING!
ECONON
WELCOME BACK, MRS. WALLER. WASHINGTON WAS FUN, I TAKE IT?
THEY GOT THEIR HEADS UP THEIR BUTTS. PROBLEM IS...THEY WANT TO PUT 'EM UP MINE. MISSION GET OFF?
YES. THAT BOMB MAY TAKE OUT HALF THE SWAMP. I DOUBT ANY OF THEM WILL COME BACK. SHOULDN'T WE HAVE TOLD THEM?
IF I'D THOUGHT SO, I'D HAVE SAID SO. FLAG'LL TELL 'EM IF NECESSARY. ANYTHING ELSE?
THE BATMAN WAS HERE, NOSING AROUND AFTER THE PRIVATEER. GAVE HIM A SONG AND DANCE WHICH I THINK HE BOUGHT.
THE BATMAN, HUH? DAMN! DON'T WANT TO TICKLE HIS CURIOSITY.
HE FINDS OUT THE TRUTH ABOUT THE SUICIDE SQUAD AND HE COULD BE MORE DANGEROUS TO US THAN THE MANHUNTERS!

CAPTAIN ATOM'S GOT US PAST FIRESTORM; NOW WE'VE GOT TO GET PAST THE WALLS!
CAPTAIN BOOMERANG, OPEN A HOLE WHERE PRIVATEER INDICATED, PLEASE.
NO WORRIES. HIGH EXPLOSIVE 'RANG'LL DO 'ER.
BOOOM!
YOU'VE ACCESSED THE MAIN CORRIDOR! WE CAN PUT A DRIVE ONTO THE HEART OF THE TEMPLE!
AFTER WE GET PAST THE GATEMEN.
COLONEL, STAY WITH BABY HUEY! FIRST CHANCE YOU GET, MOVE ON!
THE REST OF YOU--ATTACK!
KRANG!
TAO! THEY'RE ALL UNLIVING METAL! I CAN KICK THEM DOWN BUT THEY GET RIGHT BACK UP!
6

FALL DOWN AND DIE, DAMN YOU!
FOOL! YOU CANNOT STRANGLE AN ANDROID!
HE'S RIGHT. IT'S LIKE TRYING TO KILL A GIRDER!
NUTS TO THIS! I'M OUTTA HERE!
'ERE'S ONE FER YOU, MYTE.
BOOM!
STILL STROLLIN'? WELL, HERE'S ANOTHER, MYTE!
EEEEE!
STRENTH! SONICS DON'T DO ANY GOOD AND EXPLOSIVES JUST DENT YOU?!
I'M RUNNIN' OUT OF GAGS!
HM. THE MAGNUM SLUGS DON'T EVEN STAGGER THIS JOE.
BLAM! BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!







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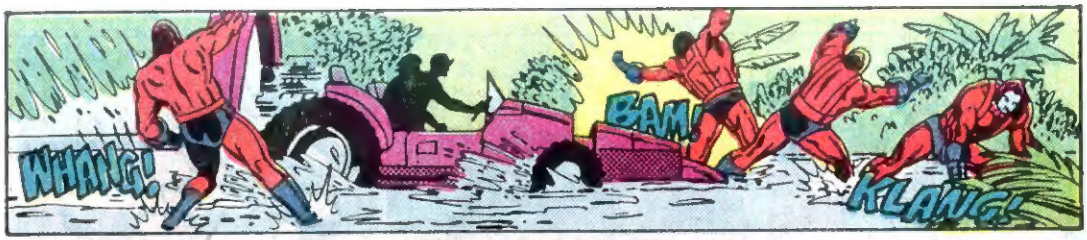
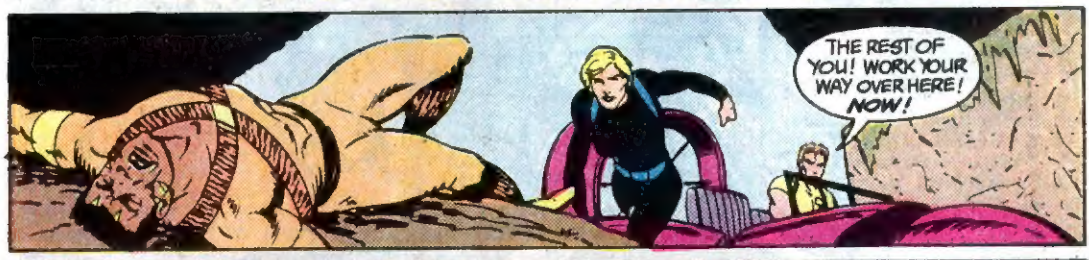
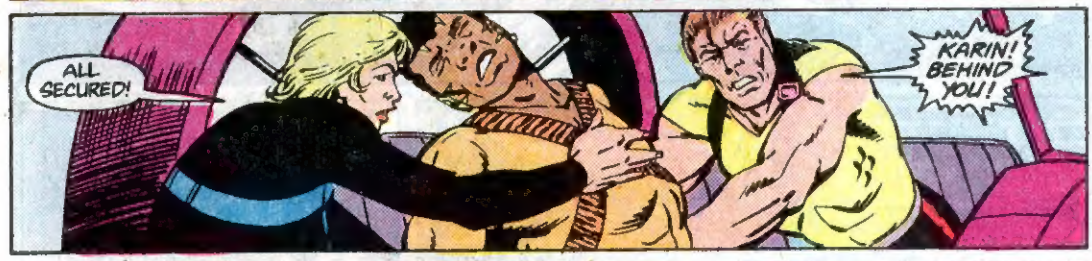
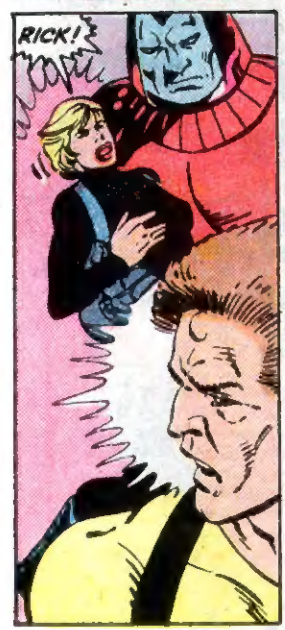

WHANG!
BAM!
KLANG!

KARIN! GET BEN OVER TO THE HUEY!


THE REST OF YOU! WORK YOUR WAY OVER HERE! NOW!

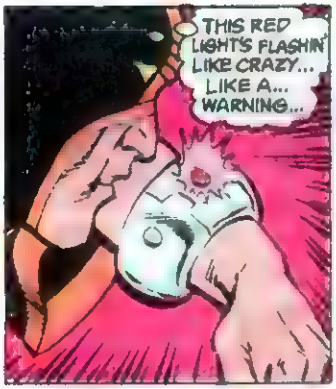

ALL SECURED!
KARIN! BEHIND YOU!

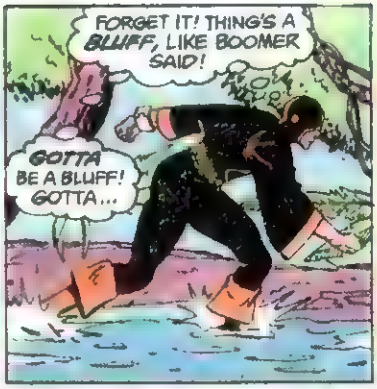

RICK!

KARIN! HANG ON! I'LL GET YOU!
NO! THAT'S JUST WHAT THE MANHUNTERS WANT!

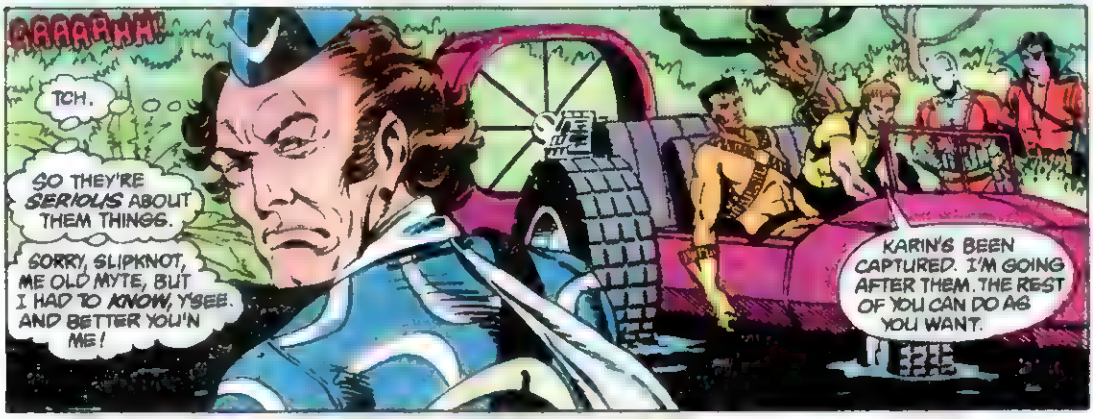
THEY PREY ON HUMAN FRAILTY! REMEMBER THE MISSION! GET GOING!
I...!
DAMN!
VROOOM

ELSEWHERE IN THE SWAMP...
WHO'S THIS WORM?


THIS RED LIGHTS FLASHIN' LIKE CRAZY... LIKE A... WARNING...


FORGET IT! THING'S A BLUFF, LIKE BOOMER SAID!
GOTTA BE A BLUFF! GOTTA...

BA BOOM!
GAAAAHH!


GAAAAHH!
TCH.
SO THEY'RE SERIOUS ABOUT THEM THINGS.
SORRY, SLIPKNOT, ME OLD MYTE, BUT I HAD TO KNOW, Y'SEE. AND BETTER YOU'N ME!
KARIN'S BEEN CAPTURED. I'M GOING AFTER THEM. THE REST OF YOU CAN DO AS YOU WANT.

YOU DO AND THE MISSION'S DEAD. THE TIGER CAN'T CONTINUE. YOU'VE GOT TO TAKE THE LEAD AND GET US IN!

NOT OUT? OKAY BY ME, I GUESS BOOMER'LL SQUAWK, THO.
WHAT'S THE TIGER SUPPOSED TO DO IN THE MEANTIME? THAT LEG LOOKS BROKEN. HE SHOULDN'T BE MOVED...

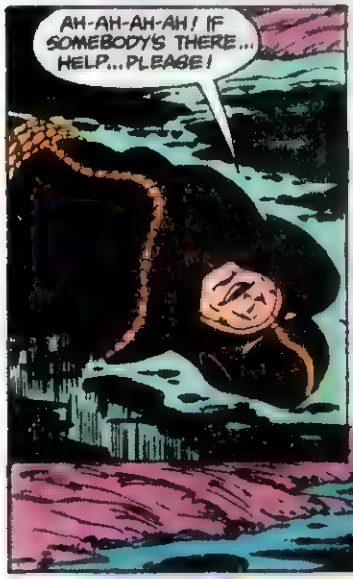
YOU CAN PICK ME UP AGAIN ON THE WAY OUT
THAT'S THE WAY IT'S GOT TO BE, COLONEL.

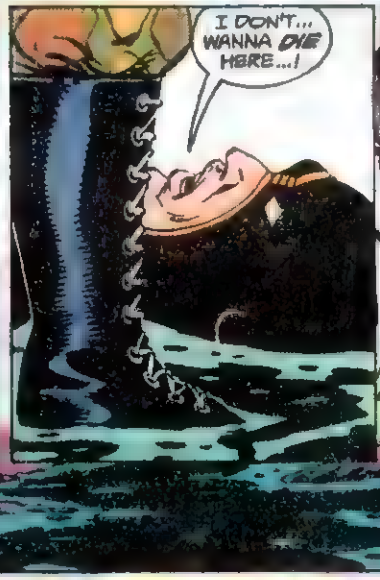
EXCEPT I DON'T SEE A WAY OUT. WE'RE ALL GOING TO DIE IN THIS SWAMP... INCLUDING KARIN.
I KNEW THAT GOING IN. I JUST DIDN'T FACE IT.
SO WHAT'S LEFT EXCEPT WHAT DAD TAUGHT ME? "DO THE JOB, RICK. WE OWE OTHERS. PAY THE DEBT."
WHATEVER THE COST.

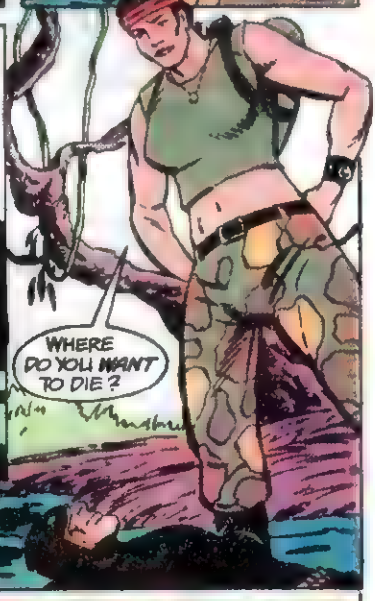
LET'S LOSE THE BRACELET, CAPTAIN. WE MAY GET SEPARATED.
BEAUTY! THANKS, COLONEL!

PUT IT IN GEAR. WE'RE MOVING OUT.

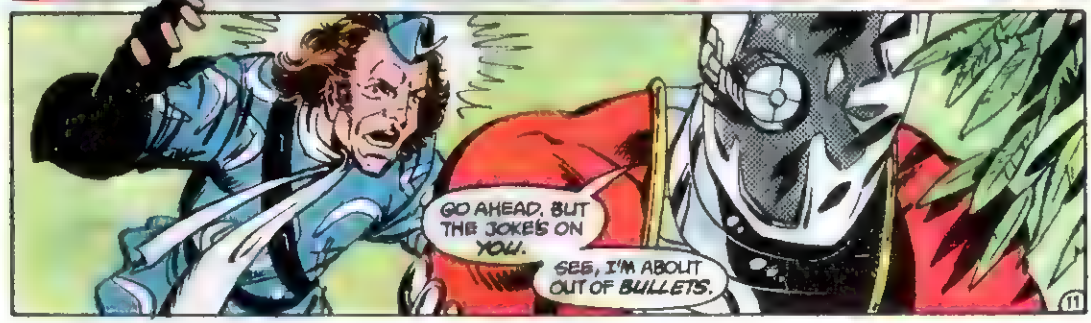
ALL THAT I CAN, COLONEL, I WILL DO. BEFORE THE END.

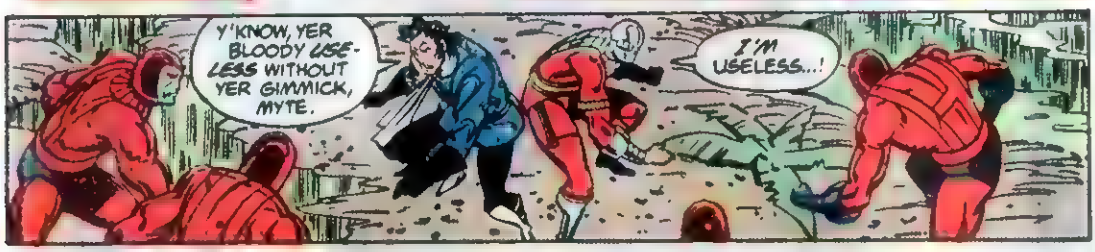

AH-AH-AH-AH! IF SOMEBODY'S THERE... HELP... PLEASE!

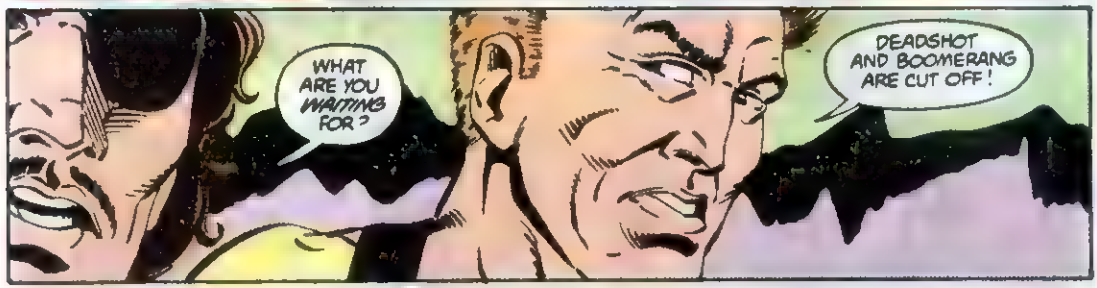

I DON'T... WANNA DIE HERE...!

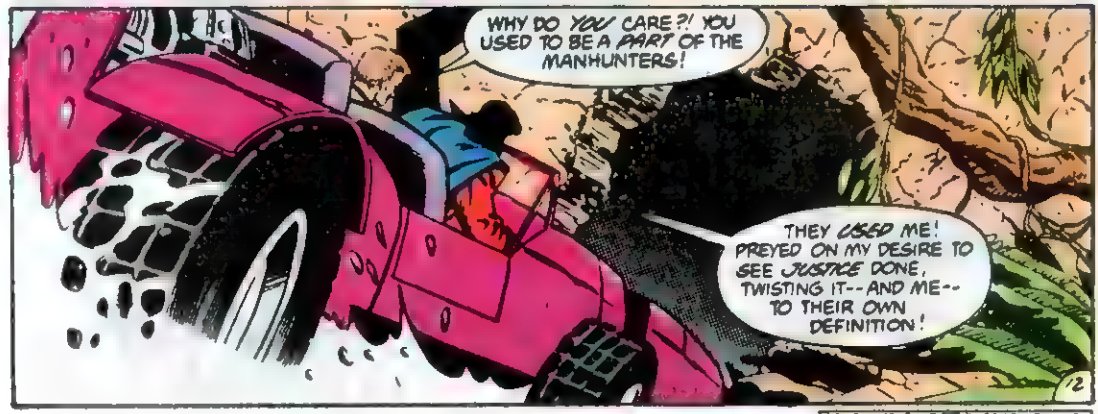

WHERE DO YOU WANT TO DIE?

DEADSHOT, OL' MYTE! MIND IF I HANG ABOUT YOU? ABOUT OUT OF BOOMERANGS, YSEE.
STREWTH! MORE OF THESE BLEEDIN' ANDROIDS!


GO AHEAD, BUT THE JOKE'S ON YOU.
SEE, I'M ABOUT OUT OF BULLETS.







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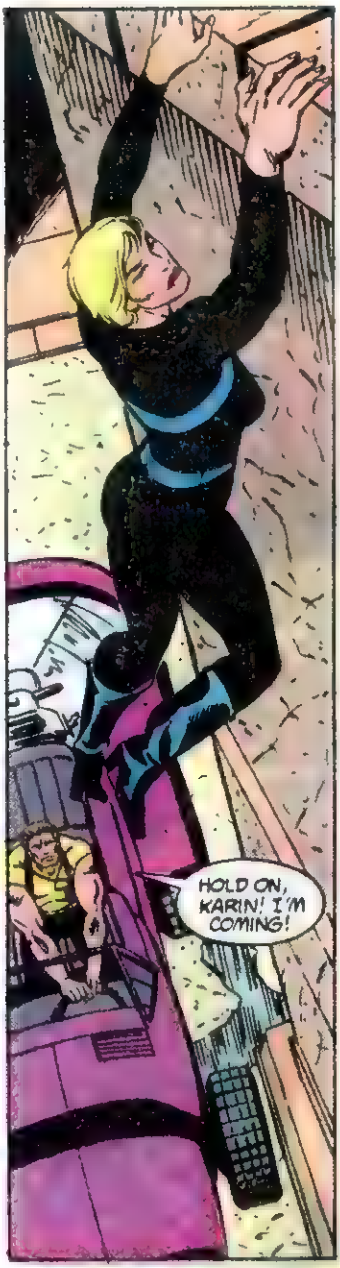
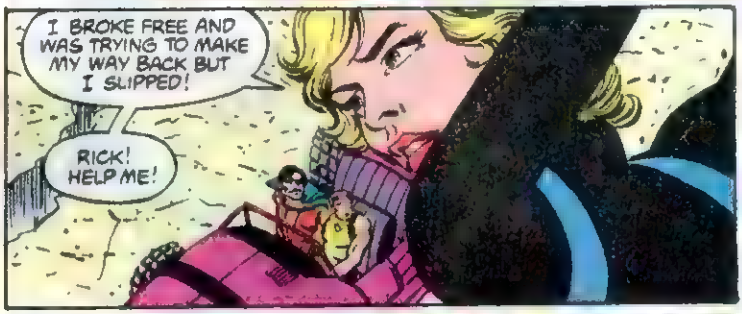
FOR ME, THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO PROVE TO MYSELF AND EVERYONE ELSE THAT I'M FINALLY FREE OF THEIR TAINT!
OF COURSE, IF YOU FAIL THAT TEST, THE MISSION GOES DOWN THE TUBES, RIGHT?
AH, THAT'S WHAT I ENJOY ABOUT YOU, COLONEL.
YOU'RE EVER THE OPTIMIST.
WE ARE WHAT OUR LIVES HAVE MADE OF US, SHAW, OR WHAT WE HAVE MADE OF THEM
RICK!
HELP! I CAN'T HOLD ON!
KARIN!!!


HOLD ON, KARIN! I'M COMING!

WAIT! I SMELL A TRAP! WHAT BECAME OF THE MAN-HUNTER THAT GRABBED HER?


I BROKE FREE AND WAS TRYING TO MAKE MY WAY BACK BUT I SLIPPED!
RICK! HELP ME!

IT'S A TRICK! THE MANHUNTERS ARE TRYING TO PREY ON YOUR *WEAKNESS*, COLONEL...ON YOUR *HUMANITY*!
FOCUS ON THE *MISSION*!

SORRY. THAT *HUMANITY* IS MORE IMPORTANT TO ME THAN THE *MISSION*
CLOP!

I LOVE KARIN. AND THAT LOVE HAS *ALWAYS* TAKEN A BACKSEAT TO DUTY... TO THE *MISSION*!
NOT THIS TIME!!!

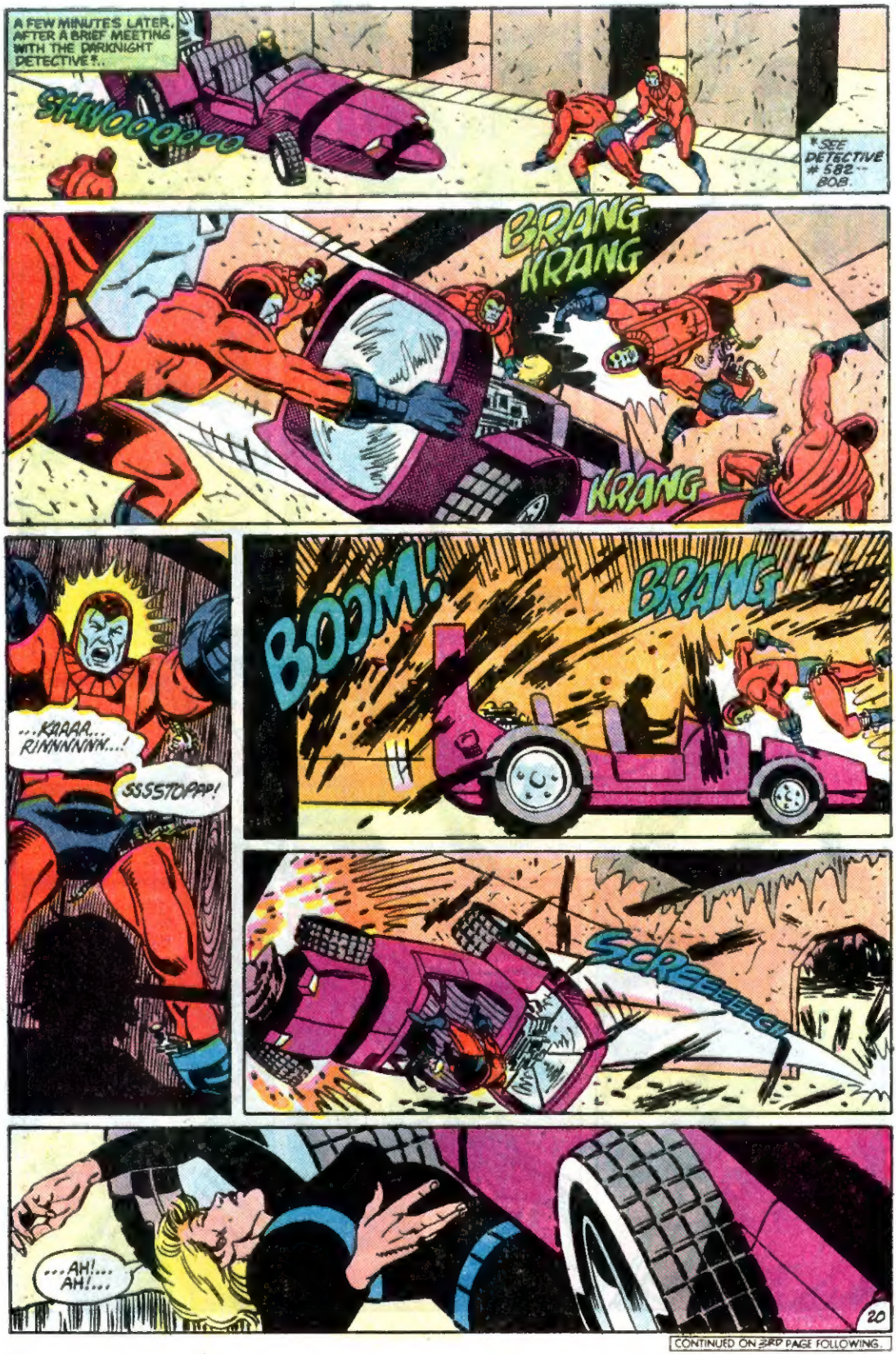
EASY, HONEY! I'VE GOT YOU!
NO, RICK. I'M THE ONE WHO HAS YOU.
YOU DEFINITELY HAVE BEEN HAD, FOOL!
MARK? GET UP, DARLING! IT'S ALL RIGHT! I HAVE FLAG COVERED!
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN PART OF... OF THE MANHUNTERS?
IT WAS AFTER THE DEBACLE IN CAMBODIA YOU SURELY REMEMBER THAT, DON'T YOU, RICK? BRIGHT AND EVANS DIED AND I... BECAME ILL.*
YOU NEVER VISITED ME, IN THE HOSPITAL OR AFTERWARDS. "ORDERS," YOU SAID. "DUTY."
AFTER I WAS RELEASED, I STILL FELT LOST.. CONFUSED... EMPTY. THAT'S WHEN I MET MARK SHAW.
* As seen in Secret Origins #14 --BOB.
15

MARK AND I FELL IN LOVE-- WITHOUT STINT, WITHOUT GUILT, WITHOUT THE SPECTRE OF DUTY BETWEEN US!
"THROUGH MARK I WAS INDUCTED INTO THE MANHUNTERS AND THEY GAVE MY LIFE A CENTER--A PURPOSE--THAT IT HAD NOT HAD FOR A LONG TIME!"
FOR THEM--FOR MARK--I INFILTRATED THE SQUAD WHEN IT REFORMED. I MADE NO ATTEMPT TO CONTACT YOU WHEN YOU JOINED, MARK, AS YOU INSTRUCTED.
BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER ANYMORE, DOES IT, DARLING?
NOT TO ME.
MARK...!
IT WAS A VERY INTERESTING STORY, MADAM, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
YOU SEE, I WAS IN PRISON WHEN YOU SAID ALL THIS OCCURED!
INDEED YOU WERE, FULFILLING THE ROLE FOR WHICH YOU WERE CREATED.
MARK...?

YES, DARLING! IT'S REALLY ME!
THIS OTHER WAS MERELY AN ANDROID, CREATED TO TAKE MY PLACE IN PRISON. THE GRAND-MASTER FELT I WAS TOO VALUABLE TO THE CAUSE TO BE ALLOWED TO SO LANGUISH.
EVERYTHING ABOUT HIM, EVEN HIS REBELLION, HAS BEEN PROGRAMMED SO HE WOULD BELIEVE HE WAS THE GENUINE THING. THE DECEPTION WAS NECESSARY TO BE CREDIBLE. NOW WE HAVE THEIR BOMB, WE MAY SAFELY DEAL WITH IT.
YOU, OF COURSE, ARE THE ANDROID, NOT I. NOT THAT I ESPECIALLY EXPECT ANYONE TO BELIEVE THAT CURRENTLY.
EITHER WAY, I'M THE CHUMP. SACRIFICED THE MISSION AND FOR WHAT? A WOMAN WHO DESPISES ME.
TO HELL WITH YOU ALL. I'M GOING ON.
NO.
SPA KOWWWW
MARK!
I SEE HIM, DARLING.

I'VE MERELY STUNNED THEM WITH THE ENERGY BATON. TO YOU GOES THE HONOR OF DISPATCHING THEM.
BEGIN WITH COLONEL FLAG, LOVE.
ALL RIGHT.
I'LL KILL MY OLD LOVE TO PLEASE MY NEW LOVE. WHY NOT? ALL MY OLD LOVE GAVE ME WAS PAIN.
WAIT! THAT'S NOT TRUE! THERE WAS JOY! THERE WERE REASONS I LOVED FLAG!
WHY CAN I ONLY REMEMBER THE PAIN?
WHY DO YOU HESITATE? FLAG CAUSED YOU SUCH MISERY!
KILL HIM!
MARK, THERE WAS MORE THAN JUST PAIN! I...
KILL! KILL! KILL! KILL! KILL!

ME USE GIMMICKS?! MYTE, WHERE I COME FROM, PEOPLE KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GIMMICK AND STYLE!
SO GO BACK WHERE YOU CAME FROM AND TAKE THESE CLOWNS WITH YOU.
BLOODY HELL!
TAO!
GOOD GOD! THE MARK I LOVED... HE WAS THE ANDROID!
BUT WHAT'S HAPPENING TO HIM?!
I DON'T KNOW. *
GOTTA...SEIZE CHANCE...WHILE WE CAN. GET THE BOMB TO THE CENTER...!
* BUT YOU WILL IF YOU READ THIS WEEK'S SPECTRE, NOW ON SALE -- BOB
I'LL DO IT.
I KNOW THE WAY, I'VE BEEN THERE.
THE CLOSER YOU GET, THE MORE DESPERATE THEY'LL GET.
I KNOW. BUT I OWE THEM. AND I OWE RICK.
GET HIM AWAY, SHAW, OKAY? TELL HIM I REMEMBERED HIS LOVE AND ASKED HIS FORGIVENESS.
ASK HIM... TO CARRY ON... FOR ME...



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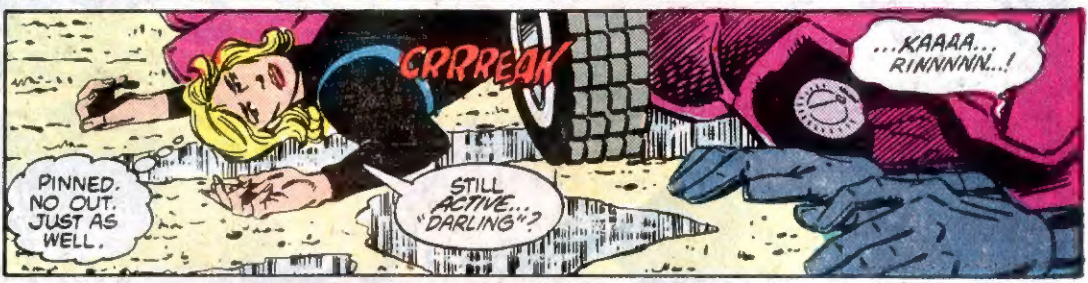
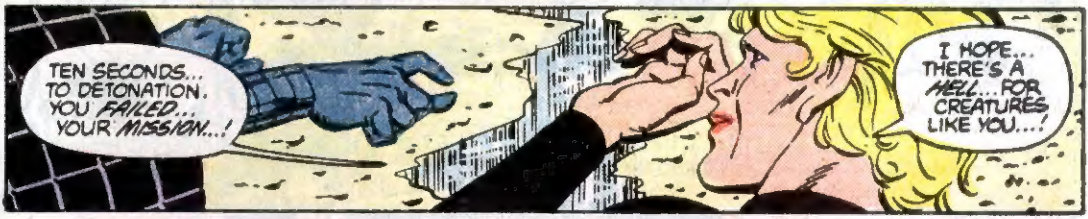
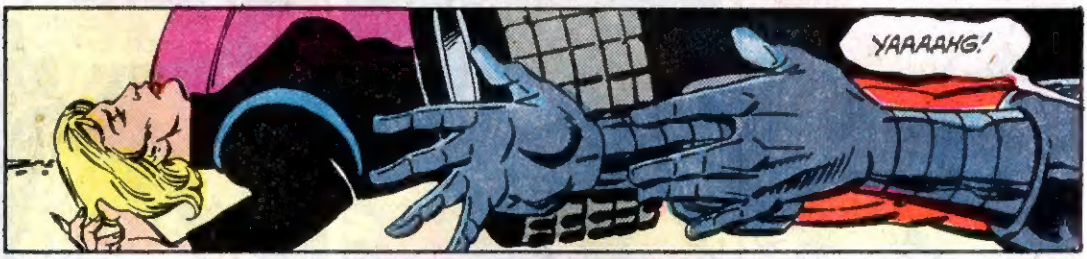
GIVE ME A HAND.
WHAT HAPPENED WITH THE BOMB?

THE GIRL TOOK IT IN. GIVE ME A HAND.
I AIN'T A HORSE AND I AIN'T GETTING SADDLED WITH NO WEIGHT LIKE HIM. MIGHT SLOW ME DOWN.

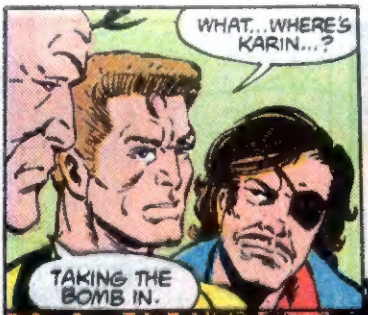
SO WOULD A BROKEN LEG. GIVE-ME-A-HAND.
BLOODY DRONGO--!

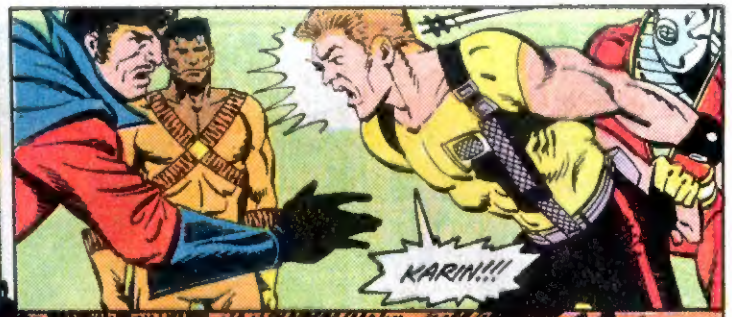

CRRREAK
...KAAAA... RINNNNN...!
PINNED. NO OUT. JUST AS WELL.
STILL ACTIVE... "DARLING"?


TEN SECONDS... TO DETONATION. YOU FAILED... YOUR MISSION...!
I HOPE... THERE'S A HELL... FOR CREATURES LIKE YOU...!

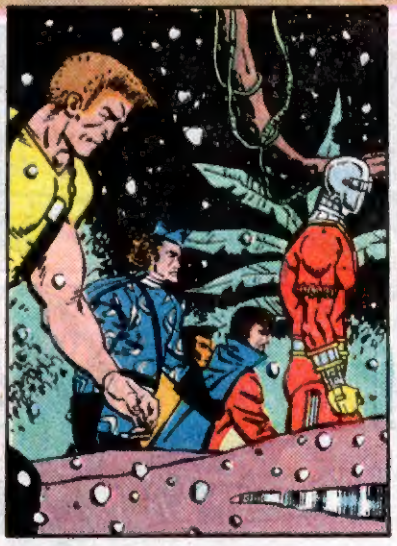

YAAAAHG!

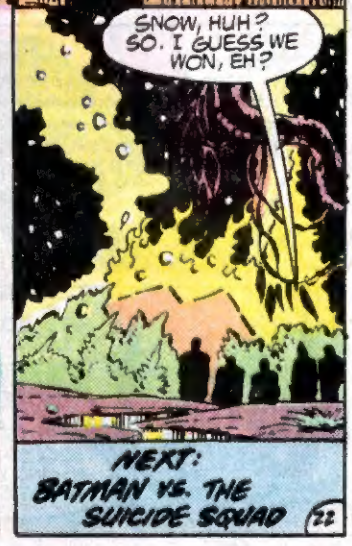
FLAG'S COMIN' 'ROUND... (PANT)
STREWTH!
GOOD. GIVE ME A HAND WITH THE BRONZE TIGER.





SHA-WAKA-THADOOM





NEXT:
BATMAN VS. THE SUICIDE SQUAD

SUICIDE NOTES

DC Comics Inc.
666 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10103

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Patrick Caldon, Controller L-2960

Dear Bob,

Issue #5 was an interesting story about what happens when governments use propaganda against each other with dueling intelligence agencies caught in the middle. I liked the idea of the "image-conscious" government sending agents to spring a political prisoner who doesn't want to be rescued and is going to be released *anyway*. I hope the problems caused by this mission will keep the Squad out of purely political issues in future stories. I agree totally with Waller and Flag about the government's use of the Squad. I would much rather see them involved as an anti-terrorist strike force or as special embassy security, rather than have them muck about in complex political situations that risk lives unnecessarily.

Although I always enjoy seeing the Penguin operate, I would have thought another villain would have been more appropriate for the mission. If *I* were going to try to spring someone from a gulag in the heart of frozen tundra, I would have used a villain with super-cold powers who could use the cold weather against the Russians. Face it, DC has too many villains with cold-based powers anyway and it would have been more effective to have sent one of those villains and then killed them off, so you could have thinned out the crowd.

From the way the Enchantress is behaving, it looks like she may go completely nuts. If she becomes too violently crazy she'll lose her value to the Squad and either have to be killed or shipped off to Arkham Asylum for a valium holiday. I like her character and I hope she can pull herself together before it's too late. Besides, totally psychotic "heroes" have been so over-used in comics lately they have become cliche. It seems that almost every group has a token mentally unstable character and it's starting to get rather dull.

I would also like to see Nightshade do more than act as public transportation officer for the Squad. I'd like to see her role in the stories expanded.

T.E. Pouncey
Wichita, Kansas

Nightshade will be played up a bit in issues 11 and 12 before an even bigger role in the spring, including a 19 page tale in SECRET ORIGINS, written by yours truly. How's that?

*****

Dear Task Force Xers,

Congratulations to Bob Lewis! His inks on SUICIDE SQUAD #5 seemed to soften the pencils so as to attract new readers for the art, as opposed to reputation. However, he appeared to capture Mr. Kesel's style on the cover. Speaking of Mr. Kesel, his recent work on SUPERMAN has been superb.

I also possess a positive attitude toward John's idea of multiple-part stories. This must come from his work on LEGENDS. A book with 22 pages and a semi-rotating membership is not enough room to portray abilities and personalities and still do them justice.

My last comment regards the Female Furies. I was disappointed in their appearance so early in the series. It wrapped up Darkseid's involvement in the recent "crisis of the soul," yet left your government open to a blackmail attempt. This, of course, being the covert involvement of known criminals organized to protect the unknowing public. And here I thought the danger was over when G. Gordon Godfrey was justifiably struck down by an innocent Lord of Order.

Chris Hines
Masstown, Nova Scotia
Canada

We haven't seen the last of the Female Furies. In fact, one of them is lurking around these pages somewhere and plays a prominent role next month.

John has woven many a wonderful multi-parter, not only here but in FIRESTORM and in **Grimjack**. *He and I have just worked out our plans through next September and we think you'll like them since we mix short stories and multi-parters.*

*****

TEAM COMMENTS

Many of you have dropped us comments about characters you want to see in these pages. There's some duplication indicating the most requested characters, some we're planning on already. Others, that no one has suggested yet, are also being worked into 1988's storylines. Let's look at your thoughts: Cheshire from *Bill McCullough, Calimesa, CA* ... Rainbow Raider, Firefly, Poison Ivy, Killer Frost (already used in FIRESTORM), Floronic Man (unavailable thanks to MILLENNIUM), Jinx, Lady Shiva from *Elisabeth Mill, Chicago, IL* ... Killer Croc (now in SWAMP THING), Psycho-Pirate, Joker (you've got to be kidding), Poison Ivy, Two-Face, Dr. Destiny, Dr. Polaris, Terminator, Firestorm, Grodd, Count Vertigo from *Steve King & Dano Colson, Cartersville, GA* ... Lady Shiva, Merlyn (dead), Onyx, Cheshire, Sportsmaster & Huntress, Toy Man, Black Manta, Scarecrow, Blue Devil (huh?), Rainbow Raider from *John Migala, Fontana, CA* ... Enforcer, Javelin, Turtle Man (????), Cluemaster from *Jon Johnson, Portland, CT* ... Golden Glider from *Michael A. Pickens, Centerburg, OH* ... Firestorm, Gypsy (retired, thank you), Killer Frost, Peacemaker (check out his current mini-series), Speedy (see issue #11) from *Ariel Estrada*. Thanks, all!

*****

COMING ATTRACTIONS

We've been building to this for a while, starting with Batman and Flagg meeting back in FIRESTORM ANNUAL #5 (for those wondering, the Squad's appearances in FIRESTORM occur between issues 4 and 5 of our title). Bats has been suspicious for a while now and this week he's tripped on to the existence of the Suicide Squad (check out DETECTIVE #582 if you don't believe me). So now he's out to bust the Squad. John, Luke and Bob have knocked themselves out with this tale so don't miss out on the fun because it's also a prelude to next February's SUICIDE SQUAD-JUSTICE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL clash.

A few other announcements and comments before we close. As you might have gathered by now, we didn't have an ANNUAL this year but one has been put on the schedule for late next summer and John has already started working out some ideas. Be patient, it will be worth the wait. Meantime, to whet your appetite, in two months we will have a 48-page, no ad DOOM PATROL-SUICIDE SQUAD SPECIAL by John, Paul Kupperberg, Erik Larsen and Bob Lewis. It guest-stars the Rocket Red Brigade and Hawk so it's packed!

Take pen in hand, drop us a line and until next month, keep smiling!

—Bob Greenberger